Speech Purpose: After listening to my speech, the audience will be able to debate the accuracy and usage of Wikipedia in academia, but agree that the effort placed into the website has a significant impact.

Introduction

I. (Show Front Page) You have probably been here before while looking up something.

II. As an avid reader and editor of the website, I can assure you that the quality has been improving over the years.

III. While googling any topic, its Wikipedia page is probably one of the first pages to show up. The amount of content is shockingly detailed for things that might seem irrelevant to you.

IV. If it were not obvious, we would be diving into the impact of the most popular source of information online, Wikipedia. Since its inception in 2001, Wikipedia has dealt with some controversy regarding content accuracy, reliability, and neutrality. Regardless, Wikipedia's resources are growing daily and are bound to improve over time.

Speech Body

I. **The quality of Wikipedia's content might not be accurate or comprehensive, and it is vulnerable to uninformed changes from anybody.**

   A. Anyone is welcome to create and edit articles in Wikipedia, regardless of credentials or expertise, which leads to unverified information.

   B. Further, the quality of the entries varies widely. Wikipedia has designated site administrators to help monitor article content and accuracy, but as the number of articles increases, it is likely more difficult to monitor the volume of entries being created.

   C. Some have recognized Wikipedia's limitations and students' increasing reliance on the site for conducting research, which has caused concerns to educators.

TRANSITION: Although Wikipedia is overwhelmed by unverified information and poor quality, the Wikipedia community is large and strong enough to provide accuracy.

II. **Wikipedia is constantly updated by the hour by millions. In comparison, print encyclopedias are usually updated annually.**

   A. Unlike traditional encyclopedias, in which subject experts write all content, the open-content nature of the website means that anyone can write articles on Wikipedia. The information

   B. Of course, this does not mean anything can be written and then accepted as valid information. Most articles posted to Wikipedia go through a review process. The

review can be done by any or all users. A reader may decide to flag the information on a page as needing more sources to verify what was written. Then a different writer or editor corrects the problem.
C. The system ensures that questionable, false information is kept off the website in favor of sourced information and can be proven or validated.
D. Wikipedia provides instant access to an account of something that may have happened only a few minutes prior. In the digital age, almost everything known, from the tiniest fragment of information to the pressing issues of the twenty-first century, is accessible to anybody.

TRANSITION: With the democratic, collaborative nature of Wikipedia, information is able to become detailed and comprehensive.

III. **Wikipedia is a great place to start research, by giving you background information and keywords to help you conduct more in-depth research elsewhere. Sources used in the articles are cited, allowing further investigation into any topic.**
   A. The subject matters range across all disciplines, from the arts and sciences to popular culture, biographical and historical information, and nearly any other subject that can be researched or reported.
   B. Most remarkable is that these articles were all written by people from all over the world. They all have two facts in common: they all had Internet access through a personal computer. They had the time to give their knowledge on a particular subject.
   C. In addition, some of these authors are experts in their field. In contrast, others are amateur scholars or people who are simply interested enough in a topic to share information about it with others.
   D. Wikipedia supports connecting globally and accessing information that generally would not be available to people in various parts of the world. It has a democratic approach to Internet use and equal access.

Conclusion
   I. Although Wikipedia is not 100% accurate and might have problems, the up-to-date information, and comprehensiveness allow for further research to understand the world in a deeper way.
   II. Whenever you find yourself on Wikipedia again, keep in mind that you are part of the world's understanding. What you do with the found information will help determine our future.